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COUNTRY	China Sinkiang
SUBJECT	Economic - Irrigation
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED	Ti-chua
DATE PUBLISHED	12 Nov 1948, 19 May 1949
LANGUAGE	Chinese

DATE DIST. 15 Sep 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Sinkiang Jih-pao.

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT NEAR TI-HUA  
INCREASES AVAILABLE FARMLAND

RED WILD GOOSE LAKE AND HO-P'ING CANAL PROJECTS -- Sinkiang Jih-pao,  
12 Nov 48

In order to convert Ti-hua district into one of the largest grain producing areas in northern Sinkiang, a huge irrigation development has been in progress since 1947.

Projects include the construction of the Red Wild Goose Lake (Hung-yen-ch'i'h) (Neda: 5985, 12957, 5986) Reservoir and the Ho-p'ing (1263, 2899) Canal. The Red Wild Goose Lake was formerly called the Red Salt Lake (Hung-yen-ch'i'h) (5985, 14620, 5986). This change in name graphically depicts the recent transformation of the water from bitter to sweet after a large amount of fresh water was drawn into the lake to leach out its salt content.

The lake is situated on the right side of Urumchi River and is suitable for reservoir construction. It is surrounded by mountains on the north, south, and east sides. The original storage capacity of the Lake was 6 million cubic meters. The plan is to increase this capacity to 50 million cubic meters.

Engineering works include construction of a long main canal from the reservoir, a 200-meter flume over Urunchi River, a dam on the west side of the lake, feed canal, and upper and lower sluice gates.

The irrigation projects have been divided into three construction periods. Work on the reservoir and the Ho-ping Canal was scheduled for the first and the second construction periods. The third construction period included development of farming areas, dredging and repairing of irrigation ditches, construction of outlet gates, and division of the farming area into a series of equal, rectangular blocks.

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The first work on the irrigation projects began in March 1947. By May of the same year, excavation work on the Ho-p'ing Canal was completed. The canal connects the reservoir with the new irrigation district of Ch'ing-ho-ta-hu (13095, 4924, 12052, 6362), which is located approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Ti-lua.

The reservoir construction work began in August 1947. The work continued throughout that winter despite subzero weather. By May 1948, most of the essential work on the lower sluice gate was completed. As a result, 18 million cubic meters of water was stored and discharged into the Ch'ing-ho-ta-hu district in time for the irrigation season in 1948. The irrigable acreage was thereby increased to 15,000 mou (one acre equals about 6 mou), 5,000 mou in rice and 10,000 mou in wheat and other cereal crops.

Work on the reservoir is continuing. When completed, the reservoir will be capable of storing surplus winter water and a portion of the summer flood waters of the Urumchi River.

#### SERVICE GATE AND FLUME CONSTRUCTION -- Sin'iang Jih-pao, 19 May 49

The Red Wild Goose Lake Reservoir is the second largest of its kind in China. Of all the construction works on the reservoir, the lower sluice gate was the most difficult. A well-lake, cylindrical gate had to be built. It had to be paved with concrete, up to ground level, to prevent seepage. The circular section had to be lined and mortared with slates and cement substitutes. Four drain pipes had to be constructed in order to decrease water pressure on the gate.

The Ho-p'ing Canal traverses east to west and crosses the Urumchi River through a large flume. The bed of the canal becomes extremely high as it approaches the river. The flume is 5 meters high. Its gradient, at the upper section, is about .005. It is of wooden construction since steel-reinforced concrete is unavailable at present. The planned discharge of the canal is 5 cubic meters per second.

The entire project is expected to be completed in another year. Upon completion of the entire project, approximately 20,000 mou of farmland on the west side of the Urumchi River will be made arable.

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